



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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FBIS-AFR-96-092

**Friday
10 May 1996**

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May 1996

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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-96-092

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Cameroon

Cameroon: President Biya on Bakassi Peninsula, Economy

AB0905224296 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1830 GMT 9 May 96

[Interview with Cameroon President Paul Biya by Africa No. 1 reporter Mohamed Issoufou Saliou in Paris on 9 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Biya] Of course, we talked about the ties of cooperation between France and Cameroon and we concluded that this cooperation was in good health.

[Saliou] Did you talk about the Bakassi peninsula?

[Biya] We discussed the problem of the Bakassi peninsula where there is territorial dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria. Cameroon is not shelling anyone's position. Cameroon wants a peaceful settlement of the conflict but it is also clear that the borders inherited from the colonial period can not be violated. This is one of the main principles of the OAU. In the face of this dispute, we took the case to the United Nations and the International Court of Justice and today we are waiting for the verdict of this court. We have heeded the call for restraint. We are a peaceful country and are for the peaceful settlement of conflicts. Of course, we will do everything in our power for this problem to be settled by sister countries. Nigeria and Cameroon are sister countries. We have a common border of several thousand kilometers. There are Nigerians in Cameroon and Cameroonians in Nigeria. We have cultural affinities and we have everything that should favor understanding between us. That is why Cameroon is determined to find a peaceful solution to this problem.

[Saliou] In case of aggression, will you ask for military assistance?

[Biya] No, we will give precedence to moves for a peaceful solution. I told you that we have taken the case to the Security Council, the UN Secretariat General, and the International Court of Justice. We hope that there will be no aggression.

[Saliou] Mr. President, you were received by the French ministers of finance, cooperation, and foreign affairs. Can we say from these three meetings that you are also in Paris to discuss economic cooperation?

[Biya] Of course yes. As you know, the economy is today a major dimension of political life and our cooperation with France in this field is capital. We spoke with Minister Godfrein about Cameroon's economic situation. We also spoke about our relations with the Bretton Woods institutions. The economic crisis in

Cameroon has not been overcome but there is net improvement in the general situation of the country's economy.

Cameroon: Students Protest Over 'Alleged Extortion' by Authorities

AB0905225096 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 9 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There has been another wave of student demonstrations in Cameroon. The students are complaining over alleged extortion by the authorities, claiming that they are having to fork out cash for almost everything. There has been a spate of marchings, demonstrations, the setting up of barricades and burning of tires in the capital Yaounde. Now 200 students have staged a protest outside the prime minister's office. From Yaounde, Victor Epie Ngome reports:

[Begin Ngome recording] The students who have been on strike for several days now complain that the university authorities have made them pay too many fees: a fee of 100 CFA francs to use the university library, 25 francs to use the toilets, a fee for an x-ray that they have never done, and yet another fee to use the reading rooms at night. They also accused the university authorities of withholding the results of their first semester examinations until they pay 1,000 francs each.

The protests began rather quietly on the Ngome Kele Campus last Friday [3 May], but became more violent in the course of the week. The students had a university library razed down to ashes and yesterday they burned old tires at the campus entrance. As they marched downtown, they chanted "Ete Gratuit," calling for the cancellation of a fee of 100 francs for the summer session, a fee which the university administration is threatening to increase to 40,000 francs.

The students say that while they are being extorted, relatives of some university officials are occupying buildings on campus, free of charge. A student quoted one of the squatters as walking into a lecture hall and telling them to keep quiet because his child was sleeping in an adjoining building.

At least 20 students are said to have been arrested and a female journalism student is reported to have collapsed after inhaling tear gas fired by the riot police. Higher Education Minister Peter Agbor Tagbi further enraged the marching students when he buttonholed one of them and shouted: Don't just march, run if you care, but you will pay the fees. By going to see the prime minister, the students are now bypassing the minister

whose new university reform they describe as erratic.
[end recording]

Cameroon: Journalist Receives 5 Months Prison Sentence

*AB0905190296 Paris AFP in French
1011 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Yaounde, 9 May (AFP) — The publishing manager of Cameroon's weekly GENERATION newspaper was sentenced to five months firm prison term and fined 9 million CFA francs for "insult and defamation," judicial sources disclosed today.

According to the same verdict, handed down on 3 May by the Douala correctional court, the weekly has been suspended for six months.

Journalist Vianney Ombe Ndzana was charged with writing an article that named and directly accused a public company director general of embezzlement, mismanagement, and manipulation of documents. Mr. Ombe Ndzana and his newspaper were both ordered to pay 5 million CFA francs as damages to the plaintiff and 4 million to the plaintiff's company.

Ombe Ndzana is the fourth Cameroonian journalist to be sentenced to prison in the past 12 months. The publishing manager of the CAMEROON POST English language weekly, Paddy Mbawe, has been in detention since September 1995 after being successively sentenced to two six-month jail terms for defamation and for publishing false information. In April, Joseph-Mari Bissari, the publishing manager of PERSPECTIVE HEBDO weekly newspaper, was also jailed for six months on defamation charges.

As for Ndzana Seme, publishing manager of NOUVEL INDEPENDANT, after serving an initial two-month sentence last August for insulting the head of state and violating the censorship law, he chose to disappear before being again sentenced in absentia last November to one year in jail and 1 million CFA fine for "insulting the head of state and inciting the public to revolt."

Zaire

Zaire: Thousands on Road as Ethnic Violence Spreads in East

*LD0905131396 Paris Radio France International
in French 0630 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In eastern Zaire, ethnic clashes in Masisi have now spread to the neighboring region

of Rutshuru. The clashes oppose Zairean locals and people of Rwandan origin. They increased in scale after the [1994] genocide, and they have spilled into Rutshuru over the last few weeks. Within one month, an extra 65,000 people took to the roads, adding to the 150,000 displaced people recorded over the last three years. These figures have been released by the IRCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is trying to help the displaced people.

Josue Anselmo is an ICRC regional information delegate for the Great Lakes region:

[Anselmo] We have already assisted 14 000 people. The ICRC intends to give help to 16,000 people this week in the framework of an emergency operation we have set up for large-scale assistance.

It is obvious that the difficulties we have met, given the topography... [pauses] This is a very tough region; we drive out land cruisers at a maximum speed of 10 kilometers an hour, part of the convoy has to stop as soon as it starts raining as the first land cruisers create crevices and the vehicles that follow cannot go through. That is one problem.

The other problem has to do with the fear, the terror experienced by these people, who can easily move around in groups of 10,000 or 20,000 people in one night because of a rumor, the rumor of an attack. These people, who lack everything — they are displaced people — just like refugees, have to choose between death and want. They leave for the hills, they live for the jungle, the bush, and we cannot find them any more.

We are going to provide assistance to 16,000 people this week. We hope that people are there, but it is quite clear that, if an imminent attack is rumored the day before, we are going to find only half the people.

Eritrea

Eritrea: Sudanese Opposition Group Said Training in Country

AB1005105696 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 10 May 96

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] So it is now out in the open, Sudanese rebels opposed to the government in Khartoum are using bases in neighboring Eritrea for military training. Eritrea accuses Sudan of trying to destabilize the entire region, and as a result, Eritrea has provided extensive backing for Sudanese opposition groups. The BBC's Peter Biles has been allowed access to a camp run by the Sudan Alliance Forces [SAF], which is headed by a former Sudanese military officer, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid 'Uthman. He asked him what his strategy was.

[Begin recording] ['Uthman] The Sudan Alliance Forces has started preparing itself in the Sudan-Eritrea border for the last year, and the activities we are doing now, we are preparing ourselves politically, militarily to topple the regime of the NIF [National Islamic Front] in Sudan.

[Biles] How significant is it that you have Eritrean hospitality and complete freedom of movement inside Eritrea?

['Uthman] We used to talk about the relation between the Sudanese people and the Eritrean people. The relation is very close, the Eritrean were in the recent past.... [pauses] they were freedom fighters in Sudan; some of them were refugees. Now, we change position, we are freedom fighters here in Eritrea, and we are doing our business.

[Biles] And, have you had direct support from the Eritreans?

['Uthman] It is not a direct support from the Eritrean to SAF, but it is the support from the Eritrean people to the Sudanese people. But, depending on the Sudanese people financially, politically, militarily, we do train our people there ourselves. We are professionals. We were in the Sudanese Armed Forces. Many of the officers, NCO's [noncommissioned officers], soldiers, they join us.

[Biles] But, in addition to training yourselves, have you had any training from the Eritreans? Have you had any equipment given to you by Eritreans?

['Uthman] Up to now, we are not receiving from the Eritrean Government any support like that, but I tell you frankly, the NIF regime is our quartermaster. The NIF regime is supporting us. We used to get in, and we

are bringing our arms from inside. We do not declare this publicly, but the enemy knows this fact, you know, that we are getting in. We used to take whatever we want. Even now, this dress, is from inside, from the quartermaster...

[Biles, interrupting] Your uniform...

['Uthman, interrupting] This uniform is from the quartermaster, it is NIF, it is definitely written this is a Sudanese uniform.

[Biles] Now, we are sitting in (?Teseney) in Eritrea, just a few kilometers from the Sudanese border, what activities are you engaged in in this area?

['Uthman] We do penetrate inside, we do go to the NIF garrisons, we do carry [out] military operations.

[Biles] But, this is what, small scale guerrilla activity?

['Uthman] Up to now, it is. It is small-scale and guerrilla activity, that is true up to now, but things will be developed. [end recording]

Kenya

Kenya: Chinese President Arrives for Visit

EA0805203496 Nairobi KTN Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 8 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The president of China, Jiang Zemin, arrived in the country today for a three-day state visit. He was met at the airport by his host, President Daniel arap Moi. [passage omitted]

A statement released by the Chinese Embassy said that the president looked forward to developing closer relations with Kenya. President Jiang Zemin will also visit Ethiopia, Egypt, Mali, Namibia and Zimbabwe in his first ever visit to the continent.

Somalia

Somalia: USC-SSA—World Will Support Majority To Achieve Peace

EA0605200196 Mogadishu Voice of the Somali
Republic in Somali 1100 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohamed, the chairman of the USC-SSA [United Somali Congress-Somali Salvation Alliance], accompanied by his vice chairmen, met at the Republic of Somalia's presidency headquarters all the permanent committee members of the USC-SSA. He briefed the meeting on the various activities carried out by the members of the executive committee during their short period of work.

He noted that it is required of the permanent committee to follow up the work being undertaken by the various committee of the central committee of the USC-SSA so as to fulfil its duties. The chairman reported to the permanent committee members on the various meetings to discuss reconciliation and unity of Somali people and the way it is now possible to hold a national congress to establish a Somali government.

The chairman briefed the members on the fact that the world today is prepared to support the majority in order to reach reconciliation. He said the time had gone when people were fettered by a minority who did not want peace and were at the same time opposed to the unity of the Somali people.

Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohamed clarified to the members that the solution to Somalia's affairs is gaining momentum given that the United Nations, regional organizations and some governments are expressing their wish to help. In conclusion, the chairman encouraged the members to face their future tasks with vigor and vitality.

They elected Dr. Ilyas Haji mohamed as a coordinator to facilitate their work. Also present were vice chairmen of the USC-SSA and the assistant secretary general of the organization.

Uganda

Uganda: Electoral Commission Lists Acts Prohibited on Polling Day

EA0805203096 Kampala Radio Uganda Network
in English 0400 GMT 8 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Interim Electoral Commission [IEC] has also warned the general public against engaging themselves in the following prohibited acts on polling day, like using loudspeakers or similar communication devices, displaying any material at a polling station that could be taken as an indication of support for or opposition against a candidate, wearing anything intended to identify a person with any candidate or anything likely to de-campaign another candidate — like motor vehicles with candidates' posters which will not be allowed near polling stations.

The commission also warns against publishing false statements about the illnesses, death or withdrawal of a candidate, [and] obstructing a voter or a candidate at the polling station. The commission further directs that no person shall arm himself or herself during any part of the polling day with any arms and ammunitions within 1 km of the polling station unless such a person is called upon by lawful authority where he or she is ordinarily entitled by virtue of his or her office.

Accordingly, the commission advises voters to raise their complaints with the presiding officer relating to the voting at the polling station or to the police. [passage omitted]

Uganda: Border Reportedly 'Sealed Off' With Kenya; Exodus Reported

AB0905215196 Nairobi KTN Television Network
in English 1800 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Uganda's 8 million registered voters turned out to cast their ballots today in the country's historic presidential elections. The polls, despite early morning complaints of irregularities, proceeded smoothly for the better part of the day. Although the situation in Kampala has been calm, Ugandan authorities have virtually sealed off its border posts of Malaba and Busia in anticipation of election violence.

However, the electoral commission early this evening began receiving election results expected to be officially announced on Saturday [11 May]. From Kampala, KTN's Beatrice Tarkwen reports:

[Tarkwen] Ugandan border posts were sealed off today as that country embarks on its historic presidential election. Activity at Uganda's Busia and Malaba border posts were at a virtual standstill as offices and businesses remained closed, with Ugandan border authorities claiming that no free movement would take place until six o'clock this evening when the official voting period comes to an end. [passage omitted]

The Kenyan border post at Busia reported a massive exodus of people from the Ugandan side, mainly of Asian origin, apparently fearing a week of anticipated election violence.

Although no ugly incidents have been reported, pessimists are resigned to a violent reaction from those people who may be dissatisfied with election results. Some families have claimed to have stockpiled on food and other supplies in case they have to barricade themselves indoors. The election [results] are expected to be announced 48 hours after conclusion of balloting.

Uganda: No Violence Reported as Voting Proceeds

AB0905133396 Kampala Radio Uganda Network
in English 1000 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Voting in the first ever presidential elections is under way in Uganda with a big turn up [as heard] of voters throughout the country. Reports reaching Radio Uganda newsroom indicate that voting in most parts of the country started on schedule at 0700

in the morning. In some parts of the country, voters arrived at polling stations as early as 0600. In Kampala, voting at most polling stations is proceeding smoothly.

There are indications that if no interruptions are experienced, some polling stations may be through with the exercise well before 1700. Police in Kampala say the turn up of voters has been big and that people are calm and peaceful. They say there have been no reports about any nasty incidents throughout the country.

However voting was temporarily interrupted at some centers due to a downpour. At Radio Uganda polling station [in Kampala] at the National Theater, there was a big turn up of voters but voting started after 0900. Some voters were turned away because their names never appeared on the register, yet they had voters' cards. Others had cards whose code numbers did not tally with those on the register. At the old taxi park with over 10 polling stations [in Kampala], there was a big turn up of voters but the exercise was delayed because some candidate agents came late. In Banda Parish, Nakawa Division [in Kampala], voters started arriving as early as six o'clock in the morning but voting was delayed up to around 0830. By 1000, most shops had been opened. At Nakasero near the Ministry of Information, voting started at around 0930 in the morning. Polling officials at the center reported that the reason for the delay was the late arrival of polling materials.

In Ntinda, the exercise got off at exactly seven o'clock. Our reporters say by 0530 in the morning, the polling officials and the police had arrived. At [words indistinct], polling started at nine o'clock. Officials say the ballot box arrived late.

In Mukono, the exercise is reportedly moving on very well. According to our reporters, in places like (Kasenge) parish, (Namobiru), and Mukono Town, voters arrived at the centers as early as six in the morning. Taxi operators in Mukono were among the early voters, and by nine they were already on road for business.

In eastern Uganda, a UGANDA NEWS AGENCY [UNA] correspondent says that voting in Pallisa and Mbale municipality is also proceeding smoothly. In Pallisa, voters are said to have arrived at their respective polling stations as early as six.

In Bushenyi district, voting is said to be going on well. According to a UNA correspondent, by 11 AM, many of the registered voters had cast their votes. In Sheema County, at (Tweyeshera) Primary School polling station, only 59 out of the 594 registered voters had not voted by 11 AM. However, half of the 59 were already on the line. People were orderly and peaceful. No incident

of violence has been reported. So far, the district returning officer Bushenyi, Mr. (Johnson Bitarabeho), commended the voters for exhibiting political maturity.

The election exercise in Fort Portal municipality started on time and voters at various polling stations were in lines before 0700. In some polling stations, elections officials had by midday cleared more than half of the total number of registered voters. In the neighborhood of the municipality, a UNA correspondent found an extremely long line at (Karambi) primary school polling station in Karambi subcounty of Burahya County, on Fort Portal-Kasese road. The correspondent called on the returning officer, Mr. (Owini Muhenda Rujumba), who said the exercise was going on smoothly. At Fort Portal police station, a sizeable number of policemen were ready and alert for any eventuality.

Uganda: AFP Reports Election Day Violence, Woman Killed by 'Mob'

*AB0905211496 Paris AFP in English
2034 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kampala, May 9 (AFP) — A mob killed a woman in Kampala on Thursday [9 May] after finding that she was carrying 250 blank ballot papers for Uganda's presidential election, witnesses said.

In another incident, supporters of opposition candidate Paul Ssemogerere beat up Education Minister Edward Babu in Kampala after finding that he too was carrying blank ballot papers for the poll which was taking place Thursday, witnesses said. They said police rescued Babu, whose car, seen by an AFP reporter, was smashed by the protesters. Another man, said to be carrying 80 blank ballot papers, was reported by witnesses to have been beaten up the center of the city.

Electoral commission chairman Stephen Akabwai told AFP he did not want to comment on the killing or the other incidents until he had received a full report from the inspector general of police. He said no other major incidents had been reported, and that voting had generally gone smoothly.

The election pitted President Yoweri Museveni, seeking to legitimise the power he seized 10 years ago after a five-year bush war, against veteran politician Paul Ssemogerere and outsider Muhammad Mayanja, a Moslem. Supporters who converged on Ssemogerere's Kampala office after dark were beaten and dispersed by truncheon-wielding military police, an AFP reporter at the scene said. Final results are due to be announced on Saturday.

Uganda: Polling Ends With Large Turnout Reported

*EA0905194996 Kampala Radio Uganda Network
in English 1700 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Voting in Uganda's first ever presidential elections has ended with a big turn up [as heard] of voters throughout the country. Reports reaching Radio Uganda newsroom indicate that voting in most parts of the country started on schedule at 0700 a.m. [0400 GMT]. [passage omitted]

Uganda: Museveni Said Heading for Landslide Victory

*AB1005102796 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 10 May 96*

[From the African News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vote counting in Uganda's first presidential election for 16 years is under way after a generally smooth-running poll. There were reports of a high turnout with long queues forming outside polling stations in some areas.

In one minor incident in the capital, Kampala, police were called in to investigate a complaint of electoral fraud, and there were delays in some parts of the country partly because of heavy rain. President Yoweri Museveni is widely expected to remain in power.

[Paris AFP in English, in Kampala-dated item, at 0820 GMT on 10 May adds the following: "President Yoweri Museveni appeared headed for a landslide win Friday [10 May] in Uganda's presidential election, early official results indicated. With 16.7 percent of the vote counted from Thursday's polling, Electoral Commission figures showed that he had 89.9 percent, veteran politician Paul Ssemogerere had 8.5 percent, and outsider Muhammad Mayanja, a Muslim, had 1.6 percent. Analysts said some Ssemogerere strongholds were yet to report their counts, but that they expected the president to win with 60 to 70 percent of the vote. Turnout appeared to have been low in towns, but high in the countryside."]

South Africa: Spokesman Denies Mandela To Attend Swazi Caucus

MB0905134096 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Swazi King Mswati III has announced that he has sacked Prime Minister Mbilini Dlamini with immediate effect. No replacement was announced for Mr. Dlamini, who has been prime minister since 1993. King Mswati also announced that he had set up a people's parliament at Ludzidzini [royal residence] 80 km south of the capital, Mbabane. The parliament will start hearing constitutional submissions by ordinary Swazi citizens from tomorrow.

He says President Nelson Mandela, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, and Botswana President Sir Ketumile Masire first session of the people's parliament.

However, a spokesperson for Mr. Mandela has denied that the president will attend.

South Africa: Mandela Confirms NP Cabinet Withdrawal

MB0905122496 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1133 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town May 9 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela confirmed on Thursday [9 May] that the National Party [NP] would withdraw from the government of national unity [GNU]. "I thank him for his contribution," he said in reference to NP leader FW de Klerk. "But the ANC is supremely confident that we are going to carry the government of the country," he said.

The President was speaking at a function at a school in Philippi. He said the ANC was generous and had wanted to build a spirit of national unity with the GNU. He had wanted the GNU to continue until 1999, but "the NP has withdrawn". The NP was a "traditionally white party" which had not accepted change but the ANC was going to force it to change.

South Africa: NP Undecided on Staying in Provincial Unity Governments

MB0905144896 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1412 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 9 SAPA — The National Party [NP] still had to decide on its position as minority participant in the governments of provincial unity. Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel said on Thursday [9 May].

This obviously excluded the Western Cape where the NP had a clear majority, and where the ANC would have to consider its position. He was pleased with the

decision of the NP's federal executive to withdraw from the government of national unity.

"For too long a time we have lent credibility to the ANC's bad government and we as a party had to take the flak. It is now over to the ANC. They will now have to prove to the country and to the world that they can govern well without the sound expertise of the NP. I do not believe that they are capable of doing it."

South Africa: NP Future in Provincial Governments Yet To Be Decided

MB1005093196 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 10 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The future of the National Party [NP] in provincial governments will only be decided next week when the party's federal council meets in Cape Town. That was the word from the Free State leader of the NP, Mr. Inus Aucamp, following the announcement that the party would quit the government of national unity at the end of next month. Mr. Aucamp said the position of the NP could differ from province to province, especially in the Western Cape where it was the majority party, and the Northern Cape where the NP had strong support in the 1994 election.

Earlier the party's leader in the Northern Cape legislature, Mr. Kobus Marais, said that while they would remain in the provincial government for the time being, they supported the NP's decision to withdraw from the government of national unity.

South Africa: Finance Minister—No Change in Economic Policy Without NP

MB0905145196 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1443 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 9 SAPA — There would be no fundamental change in the government's economic policy once the National Party [NP] withdrew from Cabinet, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said on Thursday afternoon [9 May].

The NP had never been in government so there would be no break to the policies of the ANC. "The economic policies of the government of national unity had never been the policies of the National Party and were entirely consistent with the policies adopted by the ANC as far back as 1992.

"Clearly there will be no fundamental change in economic policy," he said.

There would also be a much better implementation of policies as announced in his predecessor's Chris Liebenberg's budget address on March 13. Manuel said

he was pleased to note that the financial markets had not responded with renewed volatility since NP leader FW de Klerk made the announcement about 1pm on Thursday. "I think that on the back of rumours the market, given the volatility of the past three months, does tend to overreact, but the market will find its level."

Financial markets had overreacted in the past 24 hours to the speculation that the NP would withdraw, but now that the rumours had been confirmed, this would probably be good for the economy.

South Africa: Freedom Front Leader Says NP Like 'Rats Abandoning Ship'

*MB0905144696 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1405 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 9 SAPA — The National Party [NP] were like rats abandoning ship. Freedom Front [FF] leader Gen Constand Viljoen said on Thursday [9 May].

The party was putting its own interests above those of the nation, he said in reaction to the news that the NP would quit the government of national unity [GNU]. The whole concept of a GNU, to which the FF had been opposed, had one value: it was a good transitional mechanism, and could help the country over difficult times.

Now, in a difficult economic period, the NP were abandoning ship like rats. "This is worrying," he said. The NP's action was illogical: on Wednesday its leader, F W de Klerk, had told the National Assembly that parties should participate in the government. Yet he had now suddenly decided otherwise.

The NP had capitulated once again. It had made a poor showing in the constitutional process and was now, with an eye on the local elections, trying to put up a strong performance.

The NP's withdrawn from the GNU did not affect the FF, which was an independent party. "We will just continue on our own," he said.

South Africa: Democratic Party, Freedom Front React to NP Withdrawal

MB1005080396 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Democratic Party [DP] says the National Party's [NP] decision to quit the government of national unity is politically expedient, and the action of a deeply divided party. DP leader Tony Leon says this move was a complete negation of the NP's insistence that power-sharing in the executive was critical to the success and stabilization of South Africa.

Mr. Leon said the international money markets should not overreact over this issue.

[Begin Leon recording] The money markets should see the step for what it is, and that is, that a political party which has got severe problems with its own internal unity, the National Party, has made a political decision. It failed to negotiate power-sharing, which was its prime requirement for a new constitution, so I think we should see it as a political thing rather than something which is going to undermine long-term stability in this country. [end recording]

In its reaction, the Freedom Front said the NP was putting its interests above that of the country by resigning from the Government of National Unity. Gauteng spokesman Danie Boshoff said his party found it strange that the NP had adopted the new constitution yesterday and resigned from government today.

South Africa: PAC Comments on NP's Withdrawal From Unity Government

*MB1005080496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1524 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 9 SAPA — The ANC should now govern in the interests of the dispossessed majority, PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] President Clarence Makwetu said on Thursday [9 May].

He said his party was not surprised that the government of national unity had come to an end with the National Party's [NP] decision to withdraw. The PAC had always regarded it as an artificial coalition.

"The PAC now calls upon the ANC as the majority party and government of the day to rule and legislate in the interests of the dispossessed majority, unencumbered by the kind of compromises it had to make in the past, which were increasingly making it unpopular with the African masses. For its part the PAC will give full support to the ANC whenever it acts decisively in the interests of our people."

The NP's pullout would obviously affect the falling rand even further. "But we cannot be forever at the mercy of foreigners who wish to dominate and control our economy in collaboration with internal agents," he said.

South Africa: Communist Party Welcomes NP's Departure From Government

*MB1005080696 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1544 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN May 9 SAPA — The SA [South Africa] Communist Party [SACP] has welcomed the NP's [National Party] decision to leave the Cabinet.

It said in a statement on Thursday [9 May] that it had believed "all along" that a normal majority government was the sensible and most democratic arrangement.

The government of national unity had been a generous concession from the ANC-led alliance to the [words indistinct] of the NP and its allies. Over the past two years FW de Klerk's deputy presidency had been all but invisible. In other cases NP ministers had blocked transformation or, as lacklustre performers, had coasted along relying on the heavy work schedule of ANC deputy ministers. The NP's place was on the opposition benches.

"As for the Cabinet, it is with a sense of relief that the SACP says: "Goodbye, NP."

South Africa: Dipico—NP Withdrawal from Government 'Regrettable'

MB1005094996 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 10 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Northern Cape Premier Manne Dipico has said the NP's [National Party] decision to withdraw from the government of national unity is regrettable. However, he says, at the same time his government is heartened by the fact that the NP is still committed to the policies of the government of national unity, and has pledged its support for the general approach and direction the country is taking.

South Africa: IFP 'Not Reconsidering' Participation in Government

MB0905144796 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1353 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DURBAN May 9 SAPA — The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] was not reconsidering its continued participation in the government of national unity [GNU]. IFP secretary-general Dr Ziba Jiyane said in Durban on Thursday [9 May].

The IFP was responding to National Party [NP] leader F W de Klerk's announcement that the NP would withdraw from the GNU at the end of June. "The IFP reserves its position over its membership of the government of national unity," an IFP statement said.

Jiyane told SAPA that "nothing has changed" as far as the IFP was concerned and its participation in the GNU was not under review. He said the IFP's role in the GNU was an issue that was raised from time to time during the party's national council meetings. "The IFP is a democratic party and does not make snap decisions, but will consider the political situation carefully in the normal way... in the national council of the IFP."

"It seems that the National Party has finally woken up to the reality of today's politics and now see what the IFP saw with great clarity in 1993 at the beginning of the constitution-making progress.

"At that time, and throughout the process, the National Party pursued power sharing in the centre at the expense of real and democratic sharing of power through federalism. They are now left with nothing.

"They have learnt the most important lesson in South African politics — you can't trust the African National Congress," the statement concluded.

South Africa: Constitution's Promulgation Expected by Sep

MB1005075096 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 9 May 96 p 3

[Report by Patrick Bulger]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town — South Africa's new constitution adopted by the Constitutional Assembly yesterday could be promulgated as early as September this year if the Constitutional Court (CC) gives it an early thumbs-up.

The constitution is due to come before the CC next month. The Constitutional Assembly (CA) management committee is meeting next week to make the necessary arrangements for a team of legal experts to be appointed to represent the CA at the court.

The court has to decide whether the constitution complies with the 34 constitutional principles decided on at the Kempton Park talks and which have guided the broad content of the new constitution.

Political parties may also make representations to the court and already the DP [Democratic Party] and the NP [National Party] have indicated that they will contest the lockout clause for its constitutionality. The court also has the discretion to decide whether other interested groups should also be consulted. The IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] is preparing a challenge.

If the court gives the constitution the all-clear, President Nelson Mandela is free to sign it into law. If the court raises objections the CA has to attend to necessary changes within a three-month period.

The constitution contains a chapter on transitional provisions. The effect of these is to suspend certain parts of the new constitution until April 1999 when the five-year period starting from the adoption of the interim constitution expires.

South Africa: KwaZulu Traditional Leaders Reject New Constitution

*MB0905185796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1812 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ULUNDI May 9 SAPA — Traditional leaders in KwaZulu-Natal on Thursday [9 May] rejected the new constitution, saying it did not entrench traditional rule and threatened the existence of the kingdom of KwaZulu-Natal.

This emerged after a meeting of "amakhosi" (chiefs), members of the Zulu royal house and members of Iso Lesizwe (eye of the nation) in Ulundi. The meeting resolved "to deplore and condemn the adoption of a new national constitution, which no longer sufficiently provides for traditional leaders and traditional communities and is aimed at crushing the kingdom of KwaZulu-Natal".

They agreed to resist "an illegitimate, autocratic and totalitarian constitution" and to call for the beginning of a new process of constitutional negotiations which could lead to an all-inclusive constitutional settlement.

The traditional leaders called on the Zulu nation "to peacefully rise and resist in unity" the new constitution, hammered out in lengthy negotiations. They said the document no longer provided for Houses of Traditional Leaders nor the Council of Traditional Leaders, and no longer entitled chiefs to be ex officio members of local government bodies.

It did not entrench indigenous and customary law, nor traditional authorities, made no mention of the requirement to protect the role, powers and status of the king of the Zulu nation, undermined the autonomy of provinces and their powers and function, and transformed the kingdom "into a mere implementor of decisions adopted by the central government and a passive puppet in the hands of Pretoria and Cape Town". The meeting rejected the constitution "which cannot be deemed to be a legitimate, fair and acceptable constitution".

The meeting called for postponed provincial elections to be held as soon as possible and not later than June.

In other resolutions, the meeting condemned an attack on Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini's house at Kwamashu near Durban recently, during which his daughter Princess Nonhlanhla was "brutally attacked and slain". The traditional leaders reaffirmed their commitment and loyalty to the throne and the Zulu monarchy. They issued a call for unity of the Zulu nation.

South Africa: Police, Security Patrol Ambushed in KwaZulu/Natal Midlands

*MB0905092296 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network
in English 0500 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At least five people are believed to have been shot dead, and several others wounded during a shoot out in the Jikabantu area near Greytown in the KwaZulu/Natal Midlands. Police Spokesman Henry Budhram said a joint foot patrol by troops and police had been ambushed by unknown gunmen using automatic rifles. They had been pinned down for several hours. A soldier was wounded in the leg but could not be airlifted to safety because a helicopter flying overhead was shot at.

Superintendent Budhram said security reinforcements had been summoned and the soldiers and police had managed to escape. He said the police could not return to the scene last night to establish with certainty the number of dead or wounded because of the danger of being shot at. He said security forces would return to the scene this morning to investigate. He said the motive for the attack was not clear, but it might be linked to police investigations in the area.

South African Press Review for 9 May

MB0905145496

[FBIS Report]

THE STAR

Housing Dilemma — "While the authorities might have been legally justified in evicting Alexandra's Far East Bank squatters, the use of force cannot be applauded," according to Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 9 May in a page-20 editorial. "The irony of homeless people having to make way for other homeless people is underscored by the fact that a number of brick structures were among the houses flattened by bulldozers this week." The people evicted may have occupied the land illegally, "but they did so out of desperation."

SOWETAN

New Constitution Welcomed — There are "many aspects of the new Constitution that remain controversial, including the lockout clause and the education and property clauses," says a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 9 May. The paper believes "there will be many, like the DP [Democratic Party], queuing outside the doors of the court to challenge one clause or another. It is our belief that every such challenge will strengthen and improve the Constitution. After all, even the best constitutions in the world evolved over many decades and even centuries. Given that ours

is the result of only two years of talks, we have done very well indeed."

BUSINESS DAY

Government Urged To Focus on Economic Governance — The "most important factor" about the new constitution "was the near unanimous support for the document among participants," notes a page-16 editorial in Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 9 May in a page-16 editorial. However, the Inkatha Freedom Party's, IFP, absence from the constitution's proceed-

ings "signifies that the nation-building process is not complete. In practice, that means there will be continuing tensions in KwaZulu/Natal and further grounds for market nervousness. The irony is that the new constitution goes a long way towards meeting what would have been the IFP's federalist demands." **BUSINESS DAY** concludes that with the constitutional issues "now resolved, the focus must turn to effective governance, particularly in the economic sphere. That is South Africa's real incipient crisis."

Angola

Angola: UNITA Radio Reports 'Violent Armed Clashes' in Uige

MB0905201596 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1900 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Violent armed clashes were reported between Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] police members in Quitoque, Uige Province, at 1000 on 8 May. The FAA forces came from (Pumba Loge). Our correspondent has not yet given details about human and material losses.

Meanwhile, the UNITA Military Command in the region has asked the UN Angola Verification Mission-3 in the city of Uige to send a team to Quitoque to investigate the situation.

Mozambique

Mozambique: Opposition Protests South African Farmers' Arrival

MB0905185896 Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 7 May 96 p 3

[Report by Jaime Cuambe]

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition parties and certain sectors of civilian society have reacted with mixed feelings to the agreement signed by Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano and his South African counterpart, Nelson Mandela, on the project providing for South African farmers to invest in Mozambique. The first reaction came from Raul Domingos, head of the Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] parliamentary bench in the Assembly of the Republic, who says the coming of South African farmers to Mozambique is inopportune.

Raul Domingos says, "We [Renamo] are still concerned about the sale of land to South African farmers since Mozambicans need their land as much as the South Africans. As you know, only fertile land will be allocated to the boers, and land is one of the riches a Mozambican inherits from generation to generation. The accord signed between Mozambique and South Africa yesterday will create problems; it will cause land conflicts within 10 to 20 years."

Another person unhappy with the accord is Beira Archbishop Jaime Goncalves, who says the accord is part of the government's external policy "that a simple citizen cannot understand. Only the government is able to properly explain the accord's impact. This is an accord on a very important issue: land occupation. In our country we are concerned that some men, even

big companies, occupy huge portions of land to the detriment of peasants. There is no respect for customary law when dealing with such a delicate issue as land."

The archbishop of Beira noted that a debate on Land Law is under way in the country "because there are delicate problems now." He said many countries are going through bitter experiences because land owners usurp land from peasants, and warned against the danger of such a situation repeating itself in Mozambique.

Unamo [Mozambican National Union] President Carlos Reis said from his headquarters in Quelimane, "my party's view on the issue has not changed. Unamo reiterates that it never accepted the arrival of boers who want to invest in the country. It was the boers who promoted the war which has just ended in the country and today the same boers claim to be interested in helping us in agriculture. Where are the Portuguese? Does it mean the Portuguese who colonized Mozambique for 500 years are not able to help our farmers?"

Pademo [Mozambique Democratic Party] leader Wehla Ripua cautiously said: "Pademo is an opposition political party and is not ruling the country. It is the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] government that makes decisions in Mozambique and, as the opposition, we only advise. Pademo welcomes the accord but on the condition that racism is not transferred from South Africa to Mozambique. The South African Government should fight to avoid this while the Mozambican Government has the responsibility to guarantee that the interests of Mozambican farmers are respected. We do not want to witness land conflict in the country."

Another person unhappy with the accord on South African farmers is Deputy Marcos Juma of the Democratic Union [Palmo, Panade, and Panamo] bench. He said: "I am concerned with the arrival of these farmers. Does Mozambique not have farmers capable of developing agriculture? Is it necessary to import foreign farmers to develop our agriculture? My fear is that 50 years from now the children of these farmers will demand their parents' inheritance and there will be very dramatic scenes. One should be very careful when signing such an agreement on a sensitive issue like this."

Panade [National Democratic Party] leader Jose Chicuarra Massinga says he is concerned about the accord because there might be racial problems in the future. He said, "I am not happy with their arrival because the boers are the ones who promoted racism in South Africa and today they want to transfer the conflict to Mozambique. South African blacks are from the same lineage as Mozambican blacks, and I doubt whether the boers will not bring the same problems that were created with South African blacks during

apartheid. The government already has determined that South African farmers should come to Mozambique and we will cooperate with them, but I want to express our concerns clearly. The government made its decision after consultations with various countries, but we are on the ground and know the dangers of such cooperation."

Swaziland

Swaziland: 'Serious Power Struggle' Reported Within Royal Family

MB1005102096 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 10 May 96 p 2

[Report by Musa Ndlangamandla]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ludzidzini - A prince has told of a serious power struggle with the royal family which threatens the overall administration of the country. Prince Nhlonipho revealed that each faction led by senior princes claims to be privy of top secrets and rituals left by King Sobhuza II, to be passed on to King Mswati III when he took over power.

Appointed MP Prince Mahlaba and Manzini Regional Administrator Prince Gabheni were cited as ring leaders of a strong faction. They are said to occasionally go to the King to say bad things about former Likoqo [former Supreme Council of State] strongman Prince Mfanasibili.

Prince Nhlonipho said he fears for his life after having opened the can of worms, but said he has resigned himself to whatever might happen to him just so that he warns the King against danger. Prince Nhlonipho said it was his desire that the King should hear this thing first hand.

(When he made these remarks the King was not in the kraal as he was engaged in other duties).

Prince Nhlonipho said at one time Prince Mfanasibili stormed out of a Royal meeting to discuss the recent mass stay-away in the culmination of the division in the Royal household. He said the rift may even spill over to the Swazi National Council because the people on prince Gabheni's side and those who support Prince Mfanasibili have made conflicting suggestions on the appointments.

There might be strong in-fighting in the Council which is responsible for advising the King. "There is so much bad blood among these people that the other would not show the other a snake that was about to bite him. And this will ruin the country," he said.

He added: "When King Sobhuza II left us so many people mushroomed claiming to be privy to valuable information. There was the Likoqo which we were

always made to believe was the rightful group to advise the King by some people, yet some people described it as a monster. When the princes were doing national duty there was always division. Prince Mfanasibili has asked to tell all in a meeting of all the members of the Royal family (endlunkhulu). I suggest that whatever it is he wants to say should be done in the open," he said.

He warned the nation to be on the lookout for problems that may arise from the rift and to be vigilant to protect the King.

Swaziland: King—People To Decide on Removing Ban on Political Parties

MB1005081396 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Mswati III says it will be the Swazi nation which is gathered at the Ludzidzini cattle byre that will decide whether the 1973 Decree which banned political parties needs to be scrapped. Speaking in a press conference in the company of president of Botswana, Sir Ketumile Masire, and South African Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Alfred Nzo the king said at the moment he does not know whether Swazis do not want the decree. He said he will only know after the deliberations at the byre.

The king said, as a king he rules by his people and as such, if they want a certain line to be taken, that will be done. Earlier on the king had introduced the two foreign dignitaries to the people who had gathered at the byre. The king said as people of the same region it is important that we share our successes and our problems. He said he invited the dignitaries to Swaziland so they could observe for themselves how Swazis discuss their social and political changes.

Zambia

Zambia: Chiluba—'No Crisis,' Constitutional Issues 'Our Business'

MB1005093096 Lusaka THE POST in English 10 May 96

[Report by Reuben Phiri and Sipo Kapumba; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Frederick Chiluba has been advised that his decision to fight everyone who questioned the political practices of his regime would soon boomerang.

Speaking in an interview yesterday, opposition Zambia Democratic Congress (ZDC) deputy general secretary Azwell Banda warned President Chiluba of the consequences of alienating himself, his government and the

country from the rest of the world by picking fights with the international community including, most recently, her neighbours.

Banda was reacting to recent announcements by the government that it was now bitter with Botswana President and head of the Frontline States, Quett Masire, for proposing to dialogue with Zambia over her current political situation.

And former president Kenneth Kaunda, himself twice leader of the Frontline States, yesterday defended President Masire's initiative, but denied he had any influence in it as claimed by President Chiluba's government. "We feel very embarrassed about the damage government is doing to this country. You cannot go punching everyone from Western donors to your own neighbours in the region," Banda said. "We will soon find ourselves totally isolated."

Banda said the government has insulted and picked at almost every key Western donor, souring relations unnecessarily and regretted that this has now extended to respectable neighbours like President Masire and South African president Nelson Mandela.

"Masire is a Frontline heads of state chairman. There is an issue of regional stability here," Banda said. "What happens politically in Zambia has an impact on the stability of the region." He said ZDC's position was that the government should welcome international initiative and broaden its perception of local problems.

MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] national chairman Sikota Wina announced on a live radio programme this week that President Chiluba had taken offence at the letter from the Front Line leader, President Masire. "President Chiluba has rejected the meeting proposal because there are more problems in other countries than Zambia," Wina said. "There is no crisis in Zambia."

MMD suspects that President Masire is working at the instigation of the opposition UNIP [United National Independence Party] led by former President Kenneth Kaunda whom President Chiluba is trying to block from contesting the Zambian presidency through the introduction of restrictive constitutional provisions.

And Botswana acting High Commissioner to Zambia, Clement Mphusu, said he would react after liaising with the government officials in Gaborone, but doubted President Masire would have any ill motive in seeking dialogue with Zambia. "I do not even know if President Masire really wrote that letter which I too only heard being referred to on radio and television," Mphusu said in an interview last night. "Our President has been involved

in many regional initiatives but I do not know if he would want to initiate such a move in bad faith."

But former President Kaunda said President Masire was in order and it was unlikely the initiative was his alone. "When a member state is seen to be headed for trouble, it is the duty of the Frontline States to talk with the member and advise," President Kaunda said. "This is normally done only after consultation with the other members."

He denied he had anything to do with the initiative. "They are barking up a wrong tree," President Kaunda said. But President Chiluba yesterday maintained Zambia is not in a crisis and insisted everything was under control.

Speaking to two foreign journalists based in Harare at State House, President Chiluba yesterday said the situation in the country was normal and that if there had been a crisis, he would have appealed for international assistance. "I wish to say that there is no crisis in Zambia, if the situation were so, I would have appealed for international help," President Chiluba said.

He revealed that there had been some unfavourable sentiments expressed by the donor community on the manner the Constitution was being handled but he defended his the government's stand on the matter. "Constitutional matters should be left to the citizens to decide for themselves," President Chiluba said. "Whether or not we go wrong or right is our business."

Threats of civil strife have been sounded over President Chiluba's stand on adopting the constitution without reaching consensus and the handling of the voters roll.

There have been physical and violent inter-party clashes which have left some people wounded while coercive arms of the government have been involved in various acts of human rights violations. General good governance principles have been of worry both locally and abroad. The government has lately been on a war path with diplomats from Germany, Norway and most recently the British High Commissioner for commenting on such issues.

The government sponsored negative press reports, in the state owned and controlled newspapers, attacking diplomats who the authorities believe are opposed the government's political practices.

The government has also declared it could do without Western donors if they will not shut up on the way it handles local issues. Foundation for democratic Process Secretary Bishop John Mambo said external concern is coming from events at home.

"The outside is reacting because of the worrying heat that is here. It really looks like trouble would erupt," Bishop Mambo said in an interview yesterday. "That is why we are insisting locally that all parties involved should dialogue."

And early last year the government, through the Inspector General of Police, had accused some unnamed neighbouring country of training opposition insurgents to come and topple the government of President Chiluba. And the fears of civil strife have been expressed by the church, NGOs [nongovernmental organizations], trade unions, and opposition politicians.

Zambia: UNIP Parliament Walks Out Over Constitution's Adoption

MB1005081296 Lusaka THE POST in English
9 May 96

[Report by Sipo Kapumba and Reuben Phiri; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National Party leader Akashambatwa Mbikusita-Lewanika remained in his seat as the majority of the opposition UNIP [United National Independence Party] walked out of parliament yesterday saying he must put it on record that there was objection to MMD's [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] impudence.

UNIP walked out of parliament in protest against the government's decision to adopt the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill without establishing consensus on it. The move follows the failure of the inter-party talks on Monday [6 May] which had hoped to work out a last minute compromise over the hugely criticised document. MMD led by President Chiluba then walked out of the talks after failing to agree on who would chair the meeting.

Kasenengwa UNIP member of parliament Patrick Mvunga who led the walkout from the House yesterday morning said the real issue was the method of adoption of the constitution and not the citizenship of the president or the length of the term of office. "UNIP's position is that the constitution should be adopted by a constituent assembly," Mvunga said. "We fully adopt what the citizen's convention said which is that the constitution should be adopted through a constituent assembly."

He regretted that MMD seemed to have made up its mind about what they wanted to do making it a waste of time to debate the bill. "We want to exercise our democratic right to dissent, we won't participate in the process of enactment," he said.

Mvunga complained that MMD had closed its doors to dialogue but he was challenged by Vice-president Godfrey Miyanda who said it was not true because the government had conceded to demands of the judiciary and was ready to listen some more.

Miyanda further said he had written to Mvunga and UNIP member of parliament for Petauke Lavu Mulimba in addition to National Party president Humphrey Mulemba for them to indicate specific areas needing discussion but they had not responded to the invitation.

"We are ready to listen at all stages of the bill if you seriously want to debate we are ready to listen but if you want to walk out you are free," he said.

Mvunga insisted that the opposition had not been invited for dialogue and would therefore not take part in the enactment of the bill. Mulimba said in an interview yesterday that from the way MMD members of parliament have been debating, it showed they were not ready to compromise but he hinted that UNIP could return if the ruling party showed it could be flexible. "Changes are made at the committee stage, we will be watching closely what happens there," he said.

Chadiza UNIP member of parliament Panji Kaunda shared the same view.

National Party secretary general Akashambatwa Mbikusita-Lewanika however said he sympathised with UNIP for the action they had taken saying: "they are definitely entitled to it, it is understandable."

However, he said the National Party would not follow the UNIP example because this was the end of the world. "MMD has made other attempts to bulldoze parliament and they have failed despite their numbers," he said. "We will continue to put pressure and continue the struggle. Principally we must put it on record that we objected and we shall speak to the full."

He said the amendments in the bill were designed to meet MMD's immediate need of winning the forthcoming elections and were likely to be changed by another government once in power. "I hope we won't have to wait long to have a genuinely democratic government concerned about democracy than party politics," he said.

Zambia Democratic Congress vice-president Kasuka Mutukwa said in an interview that he sympathised with UNIP for the action they had taken but he regretted that MMD was not ready to listen to reason.

"The MMD leadership has reached a stage where consensus is not important," he said. "To them might is right and they are legislating the constitution against the cries of the majority."

Foundation for Democratic Process(FODEP) secretary Bishop John Mambo described the walk out as a "sad development."

Zambia: Southern Province Chiefs Want Role in Parliament

MB1005081196 (Internet) ZAMBIA TODAY in English 8 May

[Item originally published by the ZAMBIA NEWS AGENCY, ZANA, on 8 May]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The forty-one chiefs in Southern Province have ruled out the restoration of the "House of Chiefs" and instead asked for a place in parliament insisting that the assembly had become "an empty talking shop."

Speaking in separate interviews in Monze at the College of Agriculture, where all chiefs in the province have been holding talks, the chiefs say that they have resolved to reject the reintroduction of the House of Chiefs because they say it was an empty talking shop whose decisions were never implemented by government.

"Chiefs have resolved to do away with the House of Chiefs because it was an empty talking shop. It does nothing. We want to go to parliament instead. We have suggested that three chiefs per province, chosen by fellow chiefs and not by the President should represent us," one chief said after their heated meeting this morning.

The chiefs have also unanimously agreed that contesting political positions like parliament should remain a personal decision and not decided by the state as it was at present. They say barring chiefs from taking part in politics was being naive because chiefs by virtue of managing their subjects were already politicians.

Over the issue of having a Paramount Chief for the province, most chiefs said the idea was good and it should be given more time and research before it came to fruition.

The chiefs will have to reconvene again to revisit the matter after the parliamentary and presidential elections so that it was not misconstrued to mean some politicians were behind the paramountship push.

"We want a titular paramount chief at provincial level who will not interfere in the affairs of other chieftains. He will be a father figure where all chiefs in the province shall be meeting to take common stand on issues of development with harmony," another chief who did not want his name mentioned said.

The press were barred from entering the chiefs meeting this morning by the provincial permanent secretary, Dr

Kabeta Muleya. The Office of the President (Special Division) also suffered the same fate when two officers were refused to enter the meeting hall chaired by Dr Muleya himself. [passage omitted]

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: President Mugabe Announces Cabinet Reshuffle

MB0905123596 Harare Zimbabwe National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1130 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has announced a cabinet reshuffle with three governors becoming Ministers of Education, Mines and Information, Posts and Telecommunications. These are Comrade Edmund Garwe, Comrade Swithun Mombeshora, and Comrade Joyce Mujuru. He also announced the (word indistinct) minister of finance, Dr. Herbert Murerwa, who has been Minister of Industry and Commerce and acting as Minister of Finance.

The ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] national party chairman, Comrade Joseph Msika, becoming the minister without portfolio, but still (?devoted) to party duties. Former minister of mines who was involved in a car accident, Comrade Eddison Zvobgo, who now becomes Minister Without Portfolio, has been replaced by Swithun Mombeshora. Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira moves to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, while Comrade Florence Chitauru takes over the Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Social Welfare.

The Ministry of National Affairs, Employment Creation, and Cooperatives goes to Comrade Thenjiwe Lesabe, while former information, post and telecommunications minister, Comrade David Karimanzira, becomes governor and resident minister for Mashonaland East Province. ZANU-PF provincial chairman for Mashonaland Central, Comrade Border Gezi, becomes governor and resident minister for the same province, while newly-appointed Member of Parliament for Hurungwe East, Comrade (Peter) Shanisa, becomes governor and resident minister for Mashonaland West Province.

Zimbabwe: Mugabe Warns White Farmers To Accept Resettlement Plan

MB0905162996 SAPA in English 1357 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE May 9 SAPA — The Zimbabwe government has warned white commercial farm-operate with the government's plan to give peasants land. ZIANA reported on Thursday [9 May].

President Robert Mursday at a news conference the government would keep its recent presidential campaign promise to acquire more land and resettle peasants living in "crowded fragile" communal lands. "We will not tolerate any resistance at all to land acquisition," Mugabe said.

The president said government would only proceed to be "fair" compensation for farms to be acquired. The government said it would compulsorily acquire 23 large scale commercial farms with about 50,000 hectares.

The farms were first designated in 1993 but the notices sent to the owners lapsed because the government failed to acquire them in the period laid down in the 1992 Land Acquisition Act. The act empowers government to acquire land for resettlement. A land owner can challenge the design within a month of the notice being gazetted. Most farmers whose properties were re-designated have since lodged objections with the Ministry of Resources.

Zimbabwe: Vice President Returns to Cape Town for Medical Treatment

*MB1005080596 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1539 GMT 9 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE May 9 SAPA — Zimbabwean Vice-President Joshua Nkomo, 78, is back

in Cape Town for medical treatment, only four days after surgery there for an undisclosed ailment.

President Robert Mugabe told a media briefing in Harare on Thursday that Nkomo, regarded as one of the founders of the black nationalist movement against white minority rule and the symbolic leader of the country's minority Ndebele people, would be in Cape Town for another three weeks. Nkomo was operated on in a private Cape Town clinic last week, and flew back to Zimbabwe on Sunday [5 May].

The burly Nkomo had been in intense pain on Tuesday but was "in a reasonable condition" when he visited him on Wednesday, Mugabe said. He would not disclose Nkomo's illness, but said: "It isn't anything serious, you can take it from me."

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire: Liberian Refugee Ship Repaired, Heads for Ghana

AB1005104196 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 10 May 96

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Julian Marshall]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A cargo vessel carrying about 6,000 Liberian refugees is once again at sea after being forced to leave port in Ivory Coast late last night. The freighter, Bulk Challenger, limped into the Ivorian port of San Pedro on Tuesday [7 May] in need of repairs, and with food and water running short, some women and children were allowed to temporarily disembark, but after emergency repairs, the Ivorian authorities decided it was fit to sail again for Ghana despite the concerns of international aid agencies, as I heard from journalist Jackson Kane in Abidjan.

[Begin recording] [Kane] Save The Children was concerned about the safety of the boat. For example, they said the ship was not too fine to sail or too guaranteed to sail that number of persons — you are talking about, you know, between 4-6,000 people — and the Save The Children was very much concerned about the manner in which the boat was hurriedly repaired at the San Pedro port, and then they just took off right away.

[Marshall] So, why did the vessel then leave port despite these concerns?

[Kane] As a matter of fact, the UNHCR in Abidjan appealed to the Ivorian Government to allow those who wish to stay in the Ivory Coast to remain and those who wish to continue to Ghana to go on.

[Marshall] Do you know whether the Ivorian authorities had cleared it with the Ghanaian Government, before the boat left, that it would be able to land and disembark the refugees in Ghana?

[Kane] Well, to me it became a government-to-government affair. They did not say that, but what the UNHCR told me was that the UNHCR offices in Ghana were awaiting the refugees to disembark in Ghana, and they were prepared to host them. [end recording]

Liberia

Liberia: Johnson Turns Down Ghanaian, Nigerian Asylum Offers

AB1005114496 Paris AFP in French
1051 GMT 10 May 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Accra, 10 May (AFP) — "General" Roosevelt Johnson has refused the temporary political asylum offered by Ghana and Nigeria and

is preparing to return to Liberia "this week," his aide Ignatius Clay told AFP. According to Mr. Clay, Roosevelt Johnson has carefully examined the offer made to him, but believes it is preferable for him to be in Liberia. [passage omitted]

In a communique issued in Accra, "Gen." Roosevelt Johnson "emphasized" that he is not "the aggressor in the current crisis in Monrovia," and called on member countries of the Economic Community of West African States to ensure the implementation of the resolutions of the ministerial council of the Committee of Nine on Liberia, which was adopted on 8 May before the heads of state summit was canceled. [passage omitted]

Liberia: Koromah—Faction Leaders Not Lacking Goodwill

AB0905181096 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 9 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Things are looking pretty grim for Liberia since yesterday's fiasco in Accra when the scheduled ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] summit on the fighting in Monrovia failed to take place because key players didn't turn up. The two Liberian faction leaders, Alhaji Koromah, and Charles Taylor who have been leading the battles against Krahn fighters loyal to the wanted man, Roosevelt Johnson, and ECOWAS heads of state such as General Sani Abacha of Nigeria, Eyadema of Togo, and Mainassara of Niger. So it looks as though while Monrovia burns, ECOWAS is in complete disarray over how to handle it. Well, Alhaji Koromah is currently in Abuja talking to Nigerian officials. On the line, Tom Portius asked him if the failure of the summit wasn't a disaster for Liberia.

[Begin recording] [Koromah] I do not consider the Accra meeting as a failure. The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of all of the countries invited. The Government of Liberia was fully represented by the chairman of the council of state and some important recommendations were put forward which the Council of State is going to seriously look into along with the rest of the government institutions in Liberia.

[Portius] But surely you are not very happy with all the recommendations, particularly the recommendation that Roosevelt Johnson should be reinstated into the government.

[Koromah] Well, we'll look into that at the council level. These are recommendations, but what is more important is to bring about peace and end the conflict in Liberia. This conflict is not a result of Johnson's

dismissal from the government. That is not.... [pauses] He's done a lot of bad things including, the killing of ECOMOG soldiers and several thousands civilians, holding hostages, burning places up. So that is another matter.

[Portius] Would you be willing to have Roosevelt Johnson reinstated in the government?

[Koromah] I cannot individually make a decision on that matter. Frankly,

[Portius, interrupting] What's your personal feeling about it?

[Koromah] Well, I don't have a personal feeling per se. I will have to discuss that with my colleagues in the Council of State, but definitely, somebody who has done all of these things here, if he is going to be reinstated, it will be based on conditions.

[Portius] Do you have a feeling that some outside powers are perhaps supporting Johnson to counterbalance the power of Charles Taylor and perhaps yourself?

[Koromah] No, Johnson cannot counterbalance anything because he is just a brand name attached to a conflict. He is a face attached to something deeper that he doesn't have control over. So any power that is trying to carry on that sort of thing is nothing but an illusion.

[Portius] It does though seem as if ECOWAS is very tired of the Liberian conflict and is also, I'd say, not very well equipped to deal with it because it's split within itself.

[Koromah] We all are tired of this thing here and I think just the goodwill, the goodwill is the most important part and we see that that goodwill still exists in West Africa and among the ECOWAS states and this is what we will hold on to and move forward.

[Portius] I think where many people feel that the goodwill is missing is among the faction leaders.

[Koromah] I don't think so. I think you people need to analyze these things very critically. What happened preceding this particular event? Okay, ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] soldiers were attacked in Tubmanburg by forces associated with one warring faction, thereby forestalling the deployment process and the disarmament process. The rest of the factions are in the government, holding together, trying to bring this particular deviant warring faction into line. So how can you say therefore that all of the warring factions are lacking of goodwill? [end recording]

Liberia: Sankawolo Reiterates Commitment to Abuja Agreement

AB0905172396 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English
1300 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the Liberian Council of State, Professor Wilton Sankawolo, has appealed to Liberians irrespective of their political status to settle their differences. Speaking in an interview with the GBC in Accra, he said the major obstacle to the cease-fire is the fact that many Liberians are too much anxious to be in government. He spoke to our correspondent, Marvel Tarh, a Liberian.

[Begin recording] [Sankawolo] My own view is that we can prepare to make any sacrifice for the sake of the human...

[Tarh, interrupting] Do you think the factional leaders were doing Charles Taylor [words indistinct]?

[Sankawolo] Well, [words indistinct] I am just giving my personal view. It is the council as a whole that will come to a decision to react to the decision or counter the ministerial council that took place here. You see [words indistinct] I am sure. I cannot tell you yes or no on this question. It is members of the executive council who together will talk about it. What I can tell you personally I tell you. I know the mood of my colleagues on the council. We are going to make other sacrifices of peace and a compromise of peace [words indistinct] this Roosevelt Johnson matter happened, we have wanted to take a military action or political solution. The military confrontation [words indistinct] his people attacked government troops — ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] troops. You know...

[Tarh, interrupting] So, what have you done to bring lasting peace?

[Sankawolo] Well, we have to bring lasting peace to Liberia. All Liberians must be willing to live in peace with one another, but we have a situation in the country where we are all concerned about the next man trying. What is the next man's position. Everybody wants to become president, everybody wants to work for the government, everybody is known as suspicious of anyone [words indistinct]. We should learn to compromise; we should learn to appreciate one another. We should learn to work together. [Words indistinct] one man has to be president. We are now [words indistinct] one man has to be president. Over 100 plus million in Nigeria [words indistinct] president.

Why should we sit down here [words indistinct] all of us must be president, all of us must work for the government.

[Tarh] So, with the decision made to [words indistinct] the decision made by ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] to allow you people to go within two months, at least, you must [words indistinct].

[Sankawolo] I think ECOWAS is the overall authority that is in charge of the Liberian crisis. We have a government on the ground; they respect our sovereignty; they give us the chance to operate but at the same time, they [word indistinct] the mandate to help to solve this problem. Whatever formula they have come up with, we (?shall) work with that formula and of course, as I said, they have respect for our sovereignty. So, whatever questions we have on mind [words indistinct] to some of these decisions they have made, but I would like to say that we are committed to the Abuja Peace Plan and ECOWAS is in charge of this plan. [end recording]

Liberia: Ghanaian Official Says ECOWAS Meeting Not Failure

AB0905191496 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 9 May 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] It looks as though while Monrovia burns, ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] is in complete disarray over how to handle it when everything will have to wait until the next ECOWAS summit scheduled for July. Ghana's deputy foreign minister, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, one of the architects of the Abuja Accord was a negotiator in Accra. On the line Tom Portius asked him if the whole ECOWAS meeting hadn't been a disaster:

[Begin recording] [Chambas] I think that is incorrect. It's wrong to focus on attendance by the heads of state because the meeting was very well attended by the foreign ministers who engaged in serious preparations and who came out with some very concrete decisions regarding, one, the creation of a safe haven in Monrovia, restoring that city to its former status as a safe haven for the civilian population and, two, putting the whole Abuja peace process back on track.

[Portius] Surely, the statement by your head of state, President Rawlings, in the last analysis that the possibility remains that ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] and ECOWAS will soon be pulled out of Liberia, this sends a very negative message, I am sure, to Liberia.

[Chambas] That was deliberate. It was intended to let Liberians realize that the subregion has limited capacity. I think the president meant what he said. He wanted to be very clear that if by the time of the summit we do not see that there is demonstrable commitment to peace, then the subregion will have no alternative but to leave Liberians to resolve their issue by themselves.

[Portius] But do you think there's really any chance that your recommendations, the recommendations that the foreign ministers made yesterday will be taken seriously by the faction leaders, particularly the recommendation that Roosevelt Johnson should be reinstated in the government after all the trouble that's been through to arrest him?

[Chambas] Well, I think the two sides took that decision regarding Mr. Johnson. First of all, Mr. Johnson is to make a clear declaration of his acceptance of the authority of the Council of State of Liberia and the Abuja Agreement as the framework for peace in Liberia and then, on the other hand, the Council of State is to show a sense of inclusiveness and reconciliation and is to allow Mr. Johnson to be a part of the peace process. Mr. Johnson is comfortable with this arrangement and I can assure you also that the Council of State is also agreeable to this formula.

[Portius] You have said that the Liberian Council of State is looking favorably at these recommendations but how do you know when the two key members — Alhaji Koromah and Charles Taylor — weren't even in Accra.

[Chambas] They were in Accra. Mr. Taylor and Alhaji Koromah were in Accra because they at a meeting of the Council of State decided that they would be represented by the chairman of the Council of State in whom they have full confidence. Additionally, very key members of their organizations who are in government were in the meeting.

[Portius] You seem to be putting a lot of faith in the Council of State.

[Chambas] Oh you have to, you have to have faith in the Council of State. I mean the Council of State comes out of the Abuja Accord and the Abuja Accord, as far as ECOWAS is concerned, is the only viable way forward. So if you don't have faith in the institutions that are recommended by the Abuja Accord, then we must just pack up and come home.

[Portius] Which is what you will do if there isn't any progress before July.

[Chambas] Precisely. If there is no demonstrable commitment to achieve the targets that have been set by the

framework drawn up in Accra, ECOWAS will have no alternative option but to pull out. [end recording]

Niger

Niger: Mainassara Signs New Ordinances on Executive Body, Election

AB0905160596 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of state signed today an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 86001 of 30 January 1996 relating to the organization of the executive during the transitional period.

Article 1: Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 of Ordinance No. 86001 of 30 January 1996 relating to the organization of the executive during the transition period are amended as follows:

New Article 6: The National Salvation Council [CSN] is the highest body for formulating and directing national policy. It is presided over by the head of state, who is also chairman of the CSN.

New Article 7: The head of state represents the state in international relations.

New Article 8: The head of state appoints by decree a transitional prime minister upon whose proposal he appoints and dismisses the other members of government.

New Article 9: The head of state chairs the cabinet meeting, signs ordinances and decrees, and makes appointments to government civilian and military positions.

New Article 10: The head of state may delegate some of his powers to the prime minister.

New Article 12: The present composition, organization, powers, and functioning of the Supreme Court shall remain unchanged. The head of state and prime minister may request the court's opinion on all legal matters.

Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 86014 of 16 January 1996:

Article 1: Articles 52, paragraph 7; and 94 of Ordinance No. 86014 of 16 April 1996 [date as heard] relating to the Electoral Code are amended as follows:

Article 52, new paragraph 7: Voters with their names listed in the voters register at their polling station, but who have misplaced or did not receive their electoral cards can vote.

New Article 94: The prime minister; ministers and secretaries of state; regional governors; prefects; subprefects; subdistrict heads; mayors appointed by decree; the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary general, and deputy general secretary of the Independent National

Electoral Commission; traditional rulers — unless they resign — members of the Niger Armed Forces and Gendarmerie, internal security forces, police, and Republican Guards, as well as personnel of the Customs, and Forestry and Water Resources Departments, and any other paramilitary corps; and members of the judiciary — unless they are temporarily released from duty — are ineligible to contest the elections. Their resignation or temporary release from duty must be lawfully established at least three months before the official opening of the campaign.

Ordinance amending the time limits stipulated under Articles 74, 94, and 97 of the Electoral Code:

Article 1: In pursuance of Article 161 of the Electoral Code, the time limits stipulated under Articles 74, paragraph 2; 94, paragraph 2; and 97, paragraphs 1 to 3 of the said code are amended as follows:

For Article 94, paragraph 2, the presidential election campaign shall open on 14 June at midnight (2300 GMT) and shall close on 5 July at midnight.

For Article 97, paragraph 1, candidacies for the presidential election shall be filed at the Ministry of Interior for registration, public display, and circulation from 28 May to 7 June at the latest, that is to say, at least 30 days before voting day.

For Article 97, paragraph 2, the resignation or temporary release from duty of presidential election must be established eight days before the opening of the election campaign.

For Article 97, paragraph 3, the minister of interior shall finalize the list of presidential candidates by 8 June at the latest, and submit it on the same day to the Supreme Court, which shall give a ruling by 13 June at the latest.

Nigeria

Nigeria: Mugabe—OAU Not To Suspend Nigeria at Organization Summit

MB1005075796 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1354 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE May 9 SAPA — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe on Thursday [9 May] ruled out the possibility of Nigeria's suspension from the Organisation of African Unity at its forthcoming summit in Cameroon as punishment over human rights violations, the ZIANA news agency reported.

Addressing a press conference in Harare, he said Nigeria, which is facing some tough measures from fellow Commonwealth member states, would not be punished

by the group of African states. "The spirit of brotherliness prevails even where wrongs are recognised and taking measures against a brotherly state is not easy.

"African states have a problem that we are not strong enough to criticise ourselves, so Nigeria will not be punished by the OAU unless some sanctions become United Nations-imposed."

Nigeria was last year suspended from the Commonwealth, a group comprising Britain, its former colonies and outsider Mozambique, after the execution of nine minority human rights activists. The military regime headed by Gen Sani Abacha was warned to put its house in order or face tougher measures from the Commonwealth.

A Commonwealth ministerial action group [CMAG] chaired by Zimbabwean Foreign Affairs Minister Stan Mudenge was set up last year to monitor the situation in Nigeria, but the government last month refused to meet the group. At its recent meeting in London, the CMAG recommended tougher measures on Nigeria designed to speed up the country's return to democracy.

Meanwhile, Mugabe said Zimbabwe would not take an individual stance against Nigeria until discussions with other Southern African Development Community countries which are members of the Commonwealth were complete. "We are looking at how our region will react to the recommendations made by the group. The SADC countries will get together and respond to the call for tougher measures against Nigeria," he said. The measures are, however, expected to be adopted by next month.

Nigeria: Abacha Said Fighting War on All Fronts

AB0805103196 *Lagos NEWSWATCH in English*
29 Apr 96 pp 8-14

[Article by Jossy Nkwocha: "War on All Fronts;" first paragraph is NEWSWATCH introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] As an Army general, Sani Abacha, head of state, is not new to wars. He fought in the Nigerian civil war as platoon and battalion commander. But none may have been as fundamental as the wars he has been fighting since he took over power, November 17, 1993. Abacha's wars against the opposition as well as those on both the financial and external sectors have become devastating even in the face of an array of forces against him.

In the past two years and five months, he has taken on almost all the high and mighty of society who in any way have threatened his regime. They include Moshood Abiola, presumed winner of the June 12, 1993 presidential election annulled by former President

Ibrahim Babangida; General Olusegun Obasanjo, former head of state and his deputy, Shehu Musa Yar'Adua as well as Ken Saro-Wiwa, president of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People, MOSOP. Abacha has also battled labour unions and their leaders. He has fought pro-democracy and human rights activists to a standstill. The war has several casualties. Most of the activists are now in detention while several others have either been driven underground or in exile.

For declaring himself president, based on the June 12 mandate, Abiola has been in detention since June 23, 1994. His health has continued to deteriorate as a result of his long incarceration. He is said to be hypertensive, a condition that has worsened as a result of his sleeplessness and inaccessibility to his doctors and drugs. He also has chest, back and leg pains. Abiola also suffers from problems in his kidney area which make his legs or face swollen sometimes. The United Nations fact-finding team which visited him in detention recently reported that Abiola still has these health problems and was hungry for his freedom.

His businesses have ground to a halt. Contracts awarded Abiola's companies by government have been revoked. Debts owed them by government have not been paid. For instance, Summit Oil, Abiola's company involved in oil prospecting and lifting was allocated 20,000 barrels of oil per day lifting contract in February 1994. In July 1994 after Abiola declared himself president, the allocation was cancelled.

ITT Nigeria Limited, and Radio Communications Nigeria Limited, RCN, owned by Abiola, have suffered the same fate. ITT was awarded contract to provide telephones all over the country under the National Telecommunications Implementation Project, NTIP. The contract was later revoked. An RCN contract to supply walkie-talkies, radio receivers, etc., to the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] Monitoring Group, ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] in Liberia was also cancelled. Licence granted Concord Airline was cancelled too. Abiola's Concord group of newspapers were banned in June 1994 and only unbanned in October 1995.

Kudirat, Abiola's senior wife, told NEWSWATCH last year that government was fighting Abiola from all angles. "They want to ruin Abiola, not only in the political angle but his home and business," she said.

Yar'Adua and Obasanjo were arrested March 9, and 19, 1995 respectively for allegedly being implicated in the coup to overthrow Abacha. They were eventually tried by a tribunal headed by Patrick Aziza, a brigadier-general and convicted. Obasanjo was handed life sentence while Yar'Adua was condemned to death. Abacha

later commuted Yar'Adua's death sentence to 25 years and reduced Obasanjo's to 15 years.

Their travail has been traced to their sour relationship with Abacha. Shortly after Abacha took over power, he solicited their support for his regime and even asked them to nominate candidates for ministerial positions. They both refused.

Both men didn't want much to do with military rule after they voluntarily handed over to a civilian administration in October 1979. They wanted a quick return to democratic rule.

Through his political association, National Unity Organisation, NUO, Obasanjo worked hard to bring about an east-west alliance which could stand up to the north in any election. Obasanjo also stepped on Abacha's toes through his comments. For instance, in reaction to Abacha's claim that Ernest Shonekan resigned voluntarily as head of state, Obasanjo said it was not true, arguing that obtaining resignation at gun-point cannot be said to be voluntary. In a BBC interview, Obasanjo also criticised Abacha and said his government was spending money like a drunken sailor and embarking on unnecessary projects.

Yar'Adua, on the other hand, courted the regime's trouble right from the beginning by insisting that Abacha must release his transition programme. At the national constitutional conference, he was in the forefront of the group that got the assembly to fix January 1, 1996 as the regime's exit date. Abacha did not like this.

Even after both Obasanjo and Yar'Adua have been removed from circulation, the battle against them seems to be going on. Officials of Obasanjo's NUO and Africa Leadership Forum, ALF, have continued to be harassed by security agents. A seminar on ethics and professionalism in media practice organised by ALF at Gateway Hotel, Ota, Ogun State, October 13-15, 1995 was stopped midway by the police. Since then, the police have not allowed ALF to hold its periodic Farm-House dialogue in which distinguished personalities were invited to discuss leadership issues. NEWSWATCH learned last week that as a result of constant harassment, Ayodele Aderinwale, the executive director who was holding the fort for Obasanjo, now lives in Ghana with his family; Tunji Abayomi, chairman of Human Rights Africa, HRA, and Obasanjo's lawyer has been in detention since July 26, 1995.

For Yar'Adua, most of his associates who took part in the recently-concluded local government election were disqualified for "security reasons." His political

association, the People's Democratic Movement, PDM, has been in disarray.

Saro-Wiwa is not as lucky as other members of the opposition. He had mobilised his Ogoni people of Rivers State to demand self-rule because government was not taking care of them despite the fact that oil, Nigeria's main revenue earner, was being produced there. They also fought oil companies for destroying their environment. Saro-Wiwa landed in trouble when four prominent Ogoni citizens were murdered for allegedly being government stooges or "vultures."

Saro-Wiwa was eventually arrested, tried and sentenced to death by a military tribunal, October 30, 1995. In spite of a deluge of national and international calls to save Saro-Wiwa, the Provisional Ruling Council, PRC, confirmed the judgment, November 9. He was executed with eight others, November 10. Government battle against MOSOP activists still goes on.

Abacha's war on NADECO [National Democratic Coalition], labour unions and human rights groups is equally dramatic. Key NADECO members namely Bolaji Akinyemi, a professor of political science and former minister of external affairs, Alani Akinrinade, a retired lieutenant-general, Ralph Obioha and Dan Suleiman, a retired air commodore and Bola Tinubu, a former senator have been driven into exile. Wole Soyinka is also in exile. Anthony Enahoro, the 71-year-old NADECO stalwart who has been calling the shot at home disappeared, February 23 this year. Initial reports indicated that he escaped abroad when he found out that his life was in danger.

Pro-democracy and human rights activists such as Gani Fawehinmi, Abdul Oroh, executive director, Civil Liberties Organisation, CLO and Chima Ubani, general secretary, Democratic Alternative, DA, are all in detention. Beko Ransome-Kuti, a doctor and chairman, Campaign for Democracy, CD, is serving a 15-year jail term for allegedly being accessory to the coup plot of last year.

Abacha has equally delivered a devastating blow to labour. Since 1994 when he dissolved the executive committees of the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, NUPENG and PENGASSAN, and replaced them with sole administrators, Nigerian workers have no leaders to fight for their rights and welfare. Frank Kokori, secretary-general of NUPENG arrested since August 20, 1994 is still in detention without trial.

Abacha's battle with university lecturers has been fierce since he refused to endorse the agreement which the government reached with them in 1992. And for the first time in the history of university education in Nigeria, he

appointed sole administrators for University of Nigeria, Nsukka, UNN, and Ahmadu Bello University, ABU, Zaria. In fact, the ABU case is unique. It is headed by Mamman Kontagora, a retired major-general.

In April 1994, three NEWSWATCH executives, Ray Ekp, Yakubu Mohammed and Dan Agbese were arrested, detained and charged with mutiny over an interview with David Mark, a retired brigadier-general who exposed some of these secrets of the Abacha government. The charges were, however, dropped and the journalists released after 12 days in detention. The CONCORD, THE PUNCH and THE GUARDIAN group of newspapers were equally banned by Abacha. Their premises were shut. Respite came only in October 1995.

Four Nigerian journalists were jailed for allegedly being accessory to the 1995 coup plot. They were Chris Anyanwu, publisher, TSM [expansion unknown] magazine, Ben-Charles Obi, editor, WEEKEND CLASIQUE, George Mba, assistant editor, TELL and Kunle Ajibade, editor THE NEWS. Nosa Igiebor, editor-in-chief, TELL, has also been detained without trial since December last year.

Even in his constituency — the military — Abacha has removed his service chiefs twice in two years. In the recent exercise, he dropped Alwali Kazir, major-general and Femi John Femi, air vice marshal as chief of Army staff and chief of air staff respectively. He replaced them with Ishaya Bama, major-general and Nsikak Eduok, air vice marshal respectively. Reports last week even indicated that Abacha was going to probe the Ministry of Defence.

Abacha's war against opposition has attracted international concern and call for quick return to civil democratic rule. It has also led to the proliferation of foreign based pressure groups campaigning for sanctions of Nigeria. As a result of the hanging of Saro-Wiwa, Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth for two years. Randall Robinson's Trans Africa has continued to campaign for oil embargo on Nigeria. The European Union has stopped most of its aids to Nigeria. About 10 projects in Nigeria worth N66.13 billion were being financed through the European Development fund, EDF. The U.S., Britain and Germany have also placed visa embargo on senior Nigerian officials.

In spite of all these forces against him, Abacha has been unrelenting in fighting the opposition. This has now led to what one analyst described as grave-yard silence and peace. As he put it, "everyone now fears for his or her freedom and safety. No one wants to be a victim." At the last local government polls members or loyalists of the opposition groups were disqualified from contesting the election. Some of them who scaled through were

not sworn in. Last Wednesday [24 April], the launching of a book, "People's Politics and Politicians 1940-1979" by Bola Ige, a NADECO member was stopped by the SSS [State Security Services].

Abacha took on the financial sector with the arrest and trial of failed bank executives. As at last week, more than 200 bank chiefs were being detained by the Federal Investigation and Intelligence Bureau, FIIB, Alagbon, the detective arm of the police which is investigating the multiple financial malpractices that ground about 50 banks in Nigeria.

Four directors of Alpha Merchant Bank were found guilty of conspiracy and unlawfully granting \$2,962,062.89 (about N242.8 million) to Dubic Industries without authorisation or security. They are Udensi Ifegwu, director of the bank and chairman of Dubic Industries, Jimi Lawal, managing director who is at large; Tony Nnacheta, assistant general manager, Alimi and Jeff Fayomi, AGM. Last week, the tribunal also convicted Michael Odehede, former managing director, GMB, on a 15-count charge.

The war in the financial sector is not limited to bank executives. Also, caught in the cross-fire are some influential personalities. They include Ibrahim Dasuki, the powerful Sultan of Sokoto, Arthur Nzeribe, the maverick politician and leaders of the controversial Association for Better Nigeria, ABN, and Zeb Abule, owner of Crystal Bank and former governorship candidate, Rivers State. Dasuki and 15 other big shots were dragged to the tribunal in connection with about N775 million debts owed two failed banks by their companies. The banks are Alpha Merchant Bank Plc and Republic Bank Limited. Nzeribe and other directors of Lion Investment Limited are also facing trial for an alleged indebtedness of about N10.5 million to Alpha Merchant Bank.

Abacha's lieutenants insist that the "attack" on failed bank executives and other debtor influential Nigerians is meant to sanitise the banking sector which has lost about N50 billion through different fraudulent activities — unsecured loans, insider debts, foreign exchange racketeering, fraudulent money transfers, bounced cheques and money laundering. These cankerworms have led to serious liquidity problems in the banks, a condition that has made it impossible for them to honour their financial obligations especially withdrawals by depositors. Consequently, Nigerians have lost confidence in the banking industry. John Ebhodaghe, managing director, Nigeria Deposits and Insurance Corporation, NDIC, is very optimistic that the on-going operation will bring sanity into the system and restore confidence.

In a full-page advertorial in VANGUARD, Tuesday, April 16, an organisation which calls itself "Citizens for

Justice" enumerated 10 points which point to serious violations of the bankers' human rights by the NDIC. It concluded thus: "It is clear that the NDIC has craftily seized from the police the right to grant bail to suspects, wrestled from the attorney-general the right of government to prosecute; conferred on itself the right to appoint private prosecutors (who are paid handsomely); arrogated to itself the right to choose which particular tribunal to take what matter to without any regard for the right of the accused. All these premeditated actions can only lead to mistrials, miscarriages and perversions of justice."

There is also a new angle to the story. Some of the detained bank chiefs now say that they are being victimised because they are southerners. Their argument is based on the fact that more than 85 percent of the detainees and convicts are southerners. They therefore, believe that the issue of corruption and fraud in the banks was being orchestrated as a scheme to cripple the economy of the south. In fact, on Sunday, April 14, a reverend father made it the subject of his sermon in a Lagos church. He said only people from one section of the country were being detained over failed banks and that this was no way to sanitise the banking sector.

But that argument may be hard to sell. Apart from its appeal to sentiment and ethnicity, it does not take cognisance of the fact that majority of the bankers in Nigeria are from the south. Most of the banks in Nigeria are also owned by southerners who for political exigency only invite prominent northerners to be their chairmen. Anyway, as one analyst put it, "you can't rule out anything in Nigeria."

A similar scenario is playing out at the ports. In an unprecedented move, Abacha has set out to fight fraud and corruption at the sea and air ports. Soon after he took over government, Abacha set up a panel to restructure the Nigeria Customs Service, NCS and look into the private and public conduct of customs personnel, among other things. At the inauguration of the panel headed by Paul Tarfa, a retired major-general, Abacha said: "Customs officials are charged with exhibiting a high degree of indiscipline in public and private life by undue exhibition of affluence not commensurate with legitimate earnings — the Nigeria Customs Service, is in the public eye, a degenerated institution and its men and women corrupt and undisciplined."

Coming from a general, the statement was a declaration of war. NEWSWATCH learned the panel made earth-shaking discoveries especially on how customs men rip the nation off through corrupt and fraudulent practices at the ports.

This scam has led to the arrest, interrogation and detention of several customs men, customs licenced agents and officials of major shipping companies suspected of complicity in the N8 [naira] billion scandal. Customs top shots who are currently in police net include four area comptrollers. They are those of Apapa I, Apapa, Apapa II, Ijora; Tin Can Island I, and Tin Can II, (Lighter Terminal). As at last week, they were still being held at FIIB, Alagbon where an eight-member detective committee set up by Ibrahim Coomassie, inspector-general of police, AIG, has recovered about N2.5 billion from the shipping companies, licenced agents and customs men.

The government has also introduced sweeping reforms in duty collection at the ports. It has appointed professional accounting firms to take over the job of duty collection from customs personnel. The firms will take 10 percent of all revenue collected while the receiving banks will take another 10 percent. Customs men will only inspect the goods and assess the import duties due on them.

Perhaps, it is on the war against money laundering, hard drugs trafficking and advance fee fraud, otherwise known as 419, that Abacha seems to enjoy widespread support. Musa Bamaïyi, a major-general and chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, has, for instance, pursued the drug war very decisively. Never before has the battle been fought so ruthlessly. In 1994, NDLEA arrested 640 people with drugs worth more than N203 million. In 1995, it arrested 798 suspects. As at January this year, 333 of them have been convicted.

NDLEA also ensured that every Nigerian travelling to a drug-producing country was cleared. By early this year, out of 7,140 application forms collected by intending travellers from the agency, 5,489 were returned. 274 applicants were not cleared because they could not meet the requirements.

It is in the fight against money laundering that Bamaïyi has attracted the disaffection of many Nigerians. In a surprise operation, June 5 last year, he sealed off the premises of 30 car dealers, and demanded to know the source of the money with which they bought the vehicles. About 800 vehicles were impounded by the agency and the owners detained. Mike Okoye, president of the National Democratic Congress, NDC, an association of democratic lawyers petitioned Abacha on behalf of some of the car dealers, arguing that it was wrong for the agency to arrest genuine businessmen and detain them indefinitely without charging them to court. Seven of the suspects were eventually released.

NDLEA also arrested and detained Sat Guru Maharajji, the self-acclaimed living perfect master who boasted that his property along the Lagos-Ibadan expressway was worth N4 billion. He has since been released. Temitope Joshua, leader of the crowd-pulling Synagogue, Church of All Nations, was also detained for several days by the agency. In fact, many people who have exotic cars have had to abandon them at home for fear of Bamaiyi.

Okoye told NEWSWATCH last week that the drug war in Nigeria will be difficult to win as long as Americans still crave to consume the product and their government fails to stop its consumption. He also believes that as long as the Nigerian economy remains depressed, some Nigerians may still want to engage in the trade to survive. Okoye is against the practice of forcibly taking Nigerian drug suspects to U.S. for trial. According to him, it violates a country's sovereignty and the suspects' fundamental human rights. He is equally against the practice of violating the laws of the land in order to apprehend or prosecute a suspect as in the cases of drug and money laundering.

In a letter written to Okoye by one Michael Adesokan, serving a jail term in the U.S. for drug offences, he claimed that he was abducted from Nigeria to face trial. "If I was accused of violating the law, wasn't I supposed to have been treated according to the law? Is involuntary removal part of the law?" he asked.

Many genuine businessmen in Nigeria have suffered setbacks as a result of the bad image which the 419 scam has brought on the nation. Ojo-Emovon whose company deals in industrial machinery and spare parts said their foreign partners have stopped giving them credit facility.

Ozoka said when her company wanted blow and injection moulds for their Neptune water project, the manufacturers in France declined to deal with Nigerians on the basis of their reported fraudulent activities. At a recent NEWSWATCH summit, Oriji Uzoh Kalu, chairman of Slok Group, also told how the same problem has delayed the take-off of his Nigerian bank in Ghana.

The police are waging a serious war against the fraudsters. Fred Ajudua, a flamboyant lawyer and 419 suspect, is perhaps the biggest in police net. He was alleged to have collected US\$400,000 (about N3.3 million) and US\$1.6 million (about N136 million) from two foreigners respectively under false pretences. Last week, a Lagos high court suspended his trial pending an appeal on the case. Ajudua has been detained since March 9, 1995.

For Abacha to win the 419 war, Okoye insists that foreign collaborators must be tried alongside their Nigerian counterparts. "The foreigners should be charged for intending to defraud Nigeria while the fraudster should be charged for intending to defraud or defrauding the foreigner," Okoye said. He wondered why a foreigner would like to bypass his embassy to lift Nigerian oil for which he has no licence or receive money from the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, in which he has no investment. For now, the practice is to prosecute the Nigerian fraudster while the collaborator goes free.

Can Abacha win the wars he is waging on all fronts? Most of our respondents believe that if not for the cloudy political atmosphere and the regime's human rights abuses, Abacha would have won several accolades for his efforts. Even the American Government thinks the glory he deserves is being erased by these two issues. As Nwankwo advised Abacha: "Seek ye first the kingdom of democracy and all other things shall be added unto you!"

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: Over 100 Civilians Reportedly Killed by Rebels

AB0905225796 Paris AFP in English
1822 GMT 9 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Freetown, May 9 (AFP) — More than 100 civilians have been killed by rebels in southern Sierra Leone, state radio reported Thursday [9 May].

The "massacre" at Bendu-Malen in the Pujehun District Monday was reported by local hunters who returned from Bendu-Malen where they monitored the current ceasefire between the government and Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels.

Quoting journalists in the area, the radio said most victims were between 50 and 75 years old while teenage captives were taken to the main rebel base Camp Libya in the south.

One journalist who accompanied the hunters said children under five years were abandoned by the rebels who later moved on to Mattru near Jimmy Bagbor chieftdom also in the south where 16 other civilians were beaten to death by the rebels.

Reliable sources said a government statement on the incident would be made shortly.

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